

*Importing rice.*

9 \* Mr. Paul A. Thaliath: Will the Government be pleased to state :

(a) whether they have given the monopoly of importing rice and paddy required for the whole State to any one individual or Company ;

(b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, the name of the individual or the Company ; and

(c) if the answer to (a) is in the negative, whether such an arrangement is under their consideration ?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar (*Director of Food Supplies and Secretary to Government*): (a) No.

(b) In view of the above answer this question does not arise.

(c) No.

President: I want to ask the honourable member what he really meant by that question: Whether Government have given the monopoly of importing rice and paddy required for the whole State to any one individual or Company? It is an unworthy insinuation. If the honourable member thought that Government were giving monopolies to individual Companies or persons it is open to private enquiry. Such a question will undoubtedly give a bad impression to the public. I am sure that is not the honourable member's intention. There is no such monopoly. We get the rice from whomsoever the Government of India is prescribing to supply. For example, the Government of India said that Sind rice should be imported only through Volkarts. We are getting rice in that way. We are not making a kind of monopoly. The question is likely to cause very great suspicion among the public.

Mr. Paul A. Thaliath: It is not my intention to cause any such suspicion.

President: Surely, the honourable member knows the importance attached to that question, and the evils in so far as it is published in our newspapers. Suppose this question is being published. The answer is 'No.' People may not really read the answer. They would say that there would be no smoke without fire, as the question is being asked by men who are occupying responsible positions as members of this honourable House and the sister House. If you find any unworthy procedure being adopted by this Government you could ask why they are adopting that policy, and what is the ground on which they are proceeding. If the answer is found unsatisfactory, they can very well put that question. Now, this question gives rise to very serious suspicion in the minds of the people. I am going to make a statement on that matter. People are already begin-

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ning to say that the quota of rice supplied is very bad and therefore they will strike work from such and such a date. In fact, here is a report from Alleppey that the Coir workers are going to strike work on account of the bad quality of the rice supplied to them. In that state of mind which prevails not only here, but throughout India, to make the suggestion that the Government are stealing money or starting monopolies, is very unsatisfactory.

**Mr. Paul A. Thaliath :** There is no such insinuation.

**President :** Honourable member will kindly see the point. I do not want to blame the honourable member, especially as such questions are being asked by other honourable members. Nor do I wish to blame the honourable members, but I do fully realise the fact that having heard some rumour the honourable member might have got agitated and put the question. But I want to make it clear that if honourable members come to hear of such things—for example, one honourable member in the other House went on to suggest that the aerodrome was built because the Dewan wanted to fly constantly to Delhi, which was a legitimate question—before finding out the exact facts, they should not put such questions. I am not blaming the honourable member. I am only pointing out the difficulty that may arise by such questions which give room for the possibility of inferences.

*Food grains.*

10. **\*Mr. A. N. Satyanesan :** Will the Government be pleased to state the quantity of food grains, received from outside from 1st Chingom to end of Medom 1121?

**Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar :** 67,868 tons of food grains.

**Mr. A. N. Satyanesan :** സാധാരണ സംഗതിയിൽ സംസ്ഥാനമാട്ടുക്ക് ഒരു മാസത്തേക്കു എത്രമാത്രം ആഹാരസാധനങ്ങൾ വേണ്ടി വരുമെന്നു കണക്കാക്കുകയുണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

**Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar :** Yer, Sir.

*Audit of Accounts of the Food Supply Department.*

11. **\*Mr. Paul A. Thaliath :** Will the Government be pleased to state :

(a) whether any audit of accounts of the grain-purchasing and distributing section of the Food Supply Department has been carried out in the years 1118, 1119, 1120 and 1121 ;

(b) whether any audit reports have been received for any of these years ; and

(c) if so, the amount of loss or gain made during these years respectively ?